



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
44th session
Agenda item 4

MEPC 44/INF.23
14 January 2000
ENGLISH ONLY

HARMFUL AQUATIC ORGANISMS IN BALLAST WATER

GEF/UNDP/IMO Project on Ballast Water Management (GLO/99/G31/A/1G/19)

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

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| <i>Executive summary:</i> | This document provides general information on the GEF/UNDP/IMO Project on Removal of Barriers to the Effective Implementation of Ballast Water Control and Management Measures in Developing Countries to be carried out by UNDP and IMO. |
| <i>Action to be taken:</i> | Paragraph 5. |
| <i>Related documents:</i> | MEPC 44/4 |

1 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IMO signed an Agreement to implement a three-year project on the Removal of Barriers to the Effective Implementation of Ballast Water Control and Management Measures in Developing Countries. The project is due to commence early this year and expected to be finalized by the end of 2002.

2 The objective of this project is to assist developing countries in raising awareness of the matter, monitoring the situation in marine environment and establishing capacities to deal with ballast water management, taking into account the Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens adopted by the Assembly (resolution A.868(20)).

3 Six country-based Pilot Development Projects will be developed for Brazil, China, India, Iran, South Africa and Ukraine and the whole project will be co-ordinated by the Project Co-ordination Unit to be established at the IMO Headquarters.

4 Project details and progress to be made in the project will be informed to the Committee at each session in due course, in order to keep the Committee and the Working Group on Ballast Water Management informed and seek any guidance over the management and operation of the project.

Action requested of the Committee

5 The Committee is invited to take note of this information.